

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for producing at least one protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, which process comprises

- i) mixing together (a) at least one alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, at least one magnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, at least one halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, or a mixture of two or more of the foregoing, (b) at least one amine, wherein the amine has the formula R₃N, in which each R is independently a hydrocarbyl group containing up to about thirty carbon atoms, and (c) one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, one or more liquid hydrocarbons, one or more liquid halogenated hydrocarbons, or a mixture of two or more of the foregoing, to form a solution or slurry in a liquid organic medium; and
- ii) mixing together at least one protic acid with at least a portion of the solution or slurry formed in i), such that a protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is formed, wherein each of the ^Faryl groups is a fluorine-containing aryl group that has bonded directly to an aromatic ring at least two fluorine atoms, or at least two perfluorohydrocarbyl groups, or at least one fluorine atom and at least one perfluorohydrocarbyl group.

Claim 2 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein (a) is an alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, and wherein said alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is solvent-wet.

Claim 3 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein said alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is a sodium or potassium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein each position on the aromatic ring(s) of the ^Faryl group that is not a fluorine atom or a perfluorohydrocarbyl group is substituted by a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group, an alkoxy group, or a silyl group.

Claim 6 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein the aromatic ring of said ^Faryl group is a phenyl ring.

Claim 7 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein all of the positions on said aromatic ring(s) of said aryl group are substituted by fluorine atoms.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein the alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is sodium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate or potassium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein at least one R group of said amine is a phenyl group.

Claim 12 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein at least one R group of said amine is a methyl group.

Claim 13 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine.

Claim 14 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein the alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is sodium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate or potassium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, and wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether.

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein (a) is a magnesium di[tetrakis(^Faryl)borate].

Claims 19 – 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein (a) is a halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate.

Claim 22 – 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein said protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein said acid is in aqueous solution.

Claim 27 – 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

Claim 30 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein the alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is sodium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate or potassium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

Claim 31 - 33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein said magnesium di[tetrakis(^Faryl)borate] is magnesium di[tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate], wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

Claim 35 - 36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydriodic acid.

Claim 38 - 39 (Canceled)

Claim 40 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 further comprising distillation of the liquid organic medium in at least one boiling hydrocarbon.

Claim 41 - 46 (Canceled)

Claim 47 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the solution of protic ammonium tetrakis(aryl)borate in the liquid organic medium is separated from the aqueous phase.

Claim 48 - 50 (Canceled)

Claim 51 (Original): A process according to Claim 1 further comprising forming a liquid clathrate with the protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate.

Claim 52 - 53 (Canceled)

Claim 54 (Original): A process for producing at least one protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, which process comprises

- i) mixing together (a) a mixture comprising a liquid organic medium and at least one halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, wherein the liquid organic medium is comprised of one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, one or more liquid hydrocarbons, one or more liquid halogenated hydrocarbons, or a mixture of two or more of the foregoing, and (b) at least one amine, wherein the amine has the formula R_3N , in which each R is independently a hydrocarbyl group containing up to about thirty carbon atoms, to form a solution or slurry; and

ii) mixing together at least one protic acid with at least a portion of the solution or slurry formed in i), such that a protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is formed, wherein each of the ^Faryl groups is a fluorine-containing aryl group that has bonded directly to an aromatic ring at least two fluorine atoms, or at least two perfluorohydrocarbyl groups, or at least one fluorine atom and at least one perfluorohydrocarbyl group.

Claim 55 (Original): A process according to Claim 54 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate.

Claim 56 (Original): A process according to Claim 54 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, and wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers.

Claim 57 (Canceled)

Claim 58 (Original): A process according to Claim 54 wherein said protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydriodic acid.

Claim 59 (Original): A process according to Claim 54 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydriodic acid.

Claim 60 - 61 (Canceled)